

**COURSE SYLLABUS
FOR
DEBATE – I & II & III (Honors)**

Teacher: Mr. Thomas Mayo **Conference Period:** 2nd & 5th **Room:** 700

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Welcome, everyone, to Debate I, II, III & Honors. Debate is a full year elective course that is an “On your feet” competitive, and a highly participatory course that is geared toward the development and enhancement of this communication form in both formal and informal settings. Many of the students are teacher recommended for this course. Below outlines the content, and specifics for the Debate course(s).

Any student who is enrolled in any Honors level section will be held at a higher standard.

COURSE CONTENT:

During the year, **Students Will:**

- Develop skills and study Debate and Argumentation theory.
- Study, enhance, and improve verbal language through improved articulation, voice, and diction.
- Analyze various forms of non-verbal communication.
- Master the use of content specific terminology and proper debate decorum.
- Successfully demonstrate effective communication in group and professional settings.
- Study and master various types of Debate styles including: Cross-Examination Debate - policy topics, Lincoln-Douglas Debate - philosophical / value topics, Public Forum Debate - domestic & foreign issue topics, Worlds Debate - general topics with world applications, and Congressional Debate – student developed topics within the framework of Law.
- Prepare, through in-depth research, thorough topic evidence and debate cases pertaining to various Domestic and Foreign Policy topics. **For Example:**

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its non-military exploration and/or development of the Earth's oceans.

Resolved: The United States ought to prioritize the pursuit of national security objectives above the digital privacy of its citizens.

Resolved: On balance, students in grades 6-12 in the United States benefit when their schools offer interscholastic sports.

- Master Debate case construction through the compiling of researched evidence.
- Present arguments for in class analysis and discussion.
- Construct and Present various types of speeches including, but not limited to: Formal & Informal Impromptu, Extemporaneous and Oratorical speeches, and various literary works.
- Enhance research, reading & writing skills through the construction and presentation of comprehensive debate cases.
- Develop and enhance critical listening and problem solving skills.
- Develop knowledge of current national and world events.
- Develop and enhance individual and group communications skills.
- Successfully complete various research projects.
- Various daily objectives as assigned.

**As stated above, Debate I, II, & III is a highly participatory and competitive based course. Skill mastery of course objectives are applied through outside of school competitive Debate Tournaments. These tournaments will be made possible through the Houston Urban Debate League – (HUDL), The National Forensic League – (NFL), The Texas Forensic Association – (TFA), and The University Interscholastic League – (UIL).
Therefore, students MUST maintain a passing average in all of his/her classes in order to be considered eligible.**

EVALUATION:

Progress Report, Report Card, and Semester Averages will be calculated based upon Point Total Accumulation. Each assignment will be assigned a specific point weight to be totaled for the student's course average.

For example: if the student has earned 275 points out of a possible total of 300, the points earned will be divided by the points assigned. So the 275 will be divided by 300 which will equal a 92 average.

Areas of evaluation will include the following: major assignments / tests; various daily assignments; in class participation; and outside / after school competitive debate participation.

The competitive criteria, like formal tests, shall be weighed as 40% of the student's Semester Average.

AT NO TIME, will a student receive a grade of zero on any major assignment. Any late or uncompleted assignment will receive a 10 point deduction per day late not to exceed 50 points.

ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE PREASSIGNED. ALL COMPETITIONS ARE PRE-SCHEDULED.

TUTORIALS:

As a competitive course, students are encouraged to practice, and research after school. Any additional time needed will be provided as my door is always open, and I am usually at school until 5:30 or 6 pm.

MATERIALS NEEDED / REQUIRED:

Through the Houston Urban Debate League, some supplies for the students will be provided, but limited. However, student(s) will need the following: standard spiral notebook, paper - both notebook & printer, two pocket folder w/brads, blue or black ink pens, highlighters, **1 - 4 or 6 GB USB-Flash Drive**, and an inexpensive timer or stop watch, (optional).

If textbooks become available, students will be issued a textbook; and will be responsible for their book. Otherwise all and needed class materials will be provided to the student by the teacher.

Parents, Please NOTE:

With regards to the competitive requirement for this course, a complete tournament schedule will be given to your Son / Daughter. In the event of any conflicts, please contact me so that any adjustments may possibly be made.

I look forward to an outstanding an successful year!

**Mr. Greg Mayo
Director of Speech & Debate
UIL Academic Coordinator**

Parents please read and sign below.

CLASS POLICIES FOR MR. MAYO'S CLASS:

In addition to the Policies and Procedures, as stated in the HISD and Sterling High School Code of Student Conduct, and the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society Constitution, Every student will be held accountable within the following Class Standards:

- 1) Students will be in Dress Code at ALL TIMES.
- 2) Students will have all needed materials at the time of class.
- 3) Students will turn in any and all work assigned on time.
- 4) Students will be on time to class, Westbury High School's Tardy Policy will be followed.
- 5) **AT NO TIME SHALL ANY STUDENT USE, OR HAVE VISIBLE ANY CELL PHONE, OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE.**
ANY VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN THE ITEM BEING TAKEN AND TURNED IN TO THE OFFICE...NO EXCEPTIONS.
- 6) Students will not be allowed to eat or drink within the classroom. However, bottled water is acceptable.

Any violation of the above policies shall result in Disciplinary Action, as dictated within the guidelines of the Student Code of Conduct Handbook, and the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society Constitution Policies and Procedures.

Additional information, policies, or necessary forms, for Debate, will be given to your Son/Daughter for your attention.

Parent, please return this with student showing that you have received, and read these policies.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date